Environmental and social standards their impact on farm and coop performance in Nicaragua

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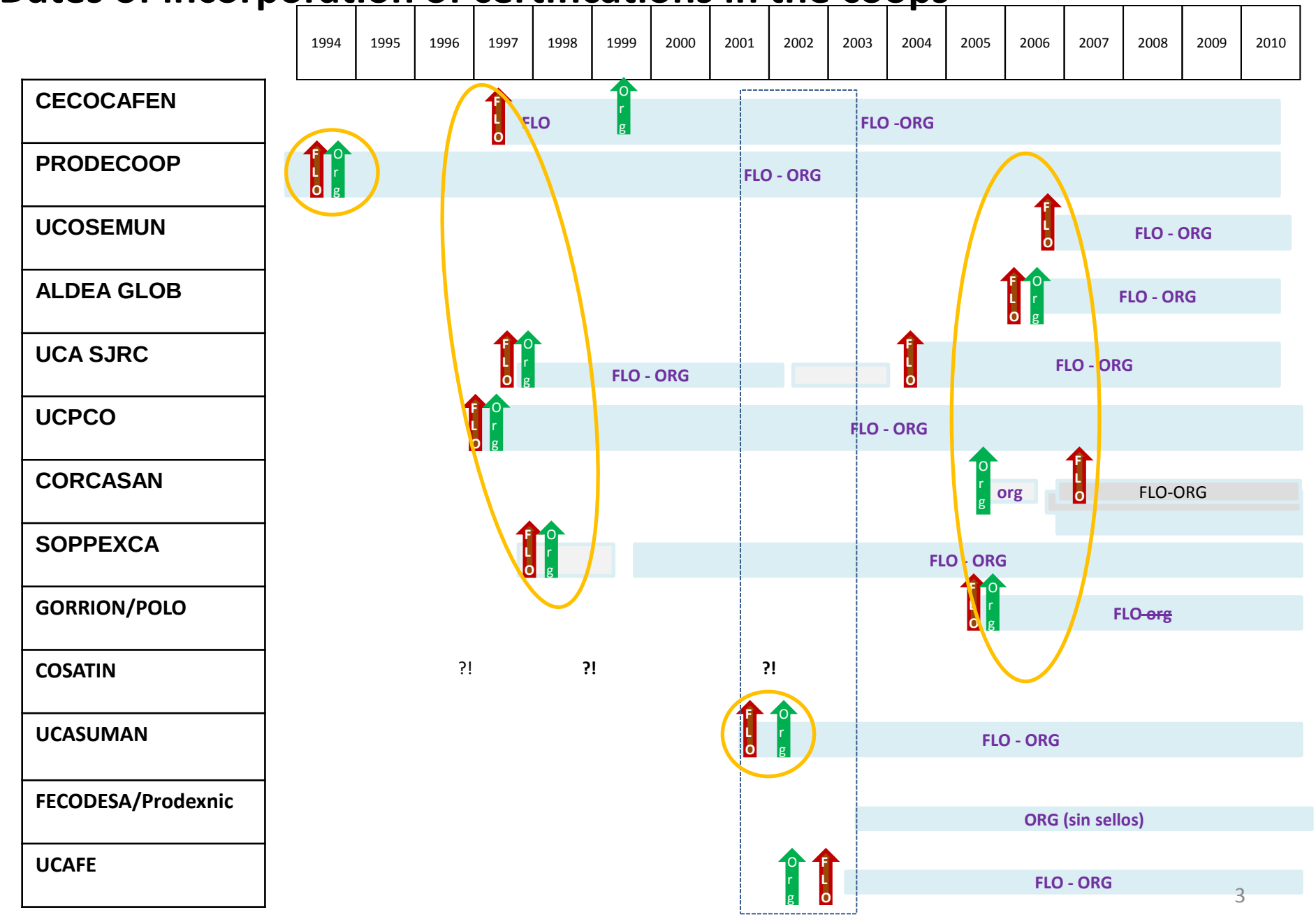
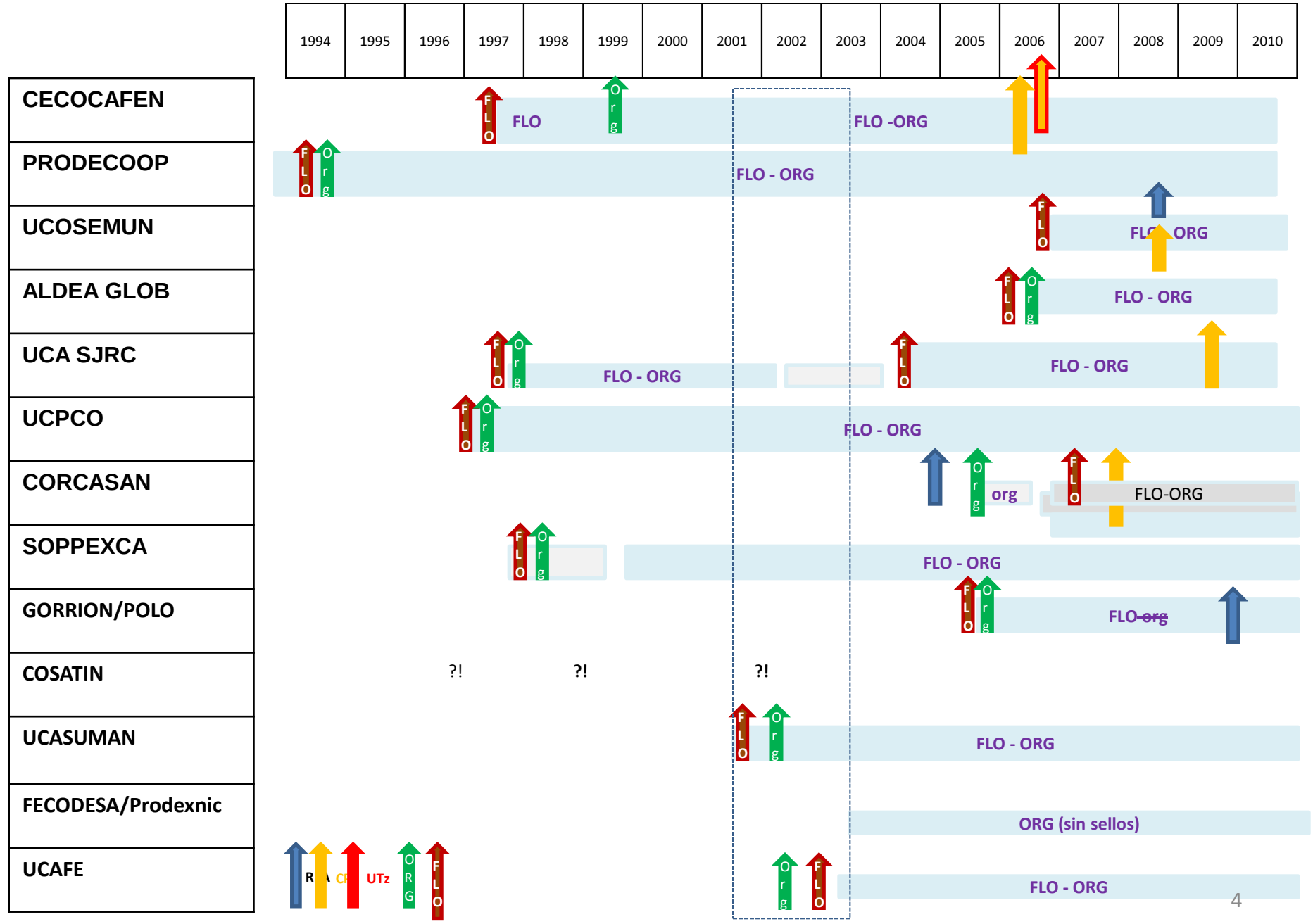
Certification held by coops in Nicaragua

	Certification type						Number of certifications held					
	ORG	**FLO**	**RFA**	**UTz**	**CAFE Pract**	**Especial**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	6
CECOCAFEN	X	X		X	X	x					X	
PRODECOOP	X	X						X				
UCOSEMUN	X	X	x	x	X						X	
ALDEA GLOB	X	X						X				
UCA SJRC	X	X			x				X			
UCPCO	X	X							X			
CORCASAN	X	X	X		x					X		
SOPPEXCA	X	X			x				X			
GORRION/ POLO		X			x			X				
COSATIN	X	X						X				
COMEXPROC												
Ucafe	X	X						X				

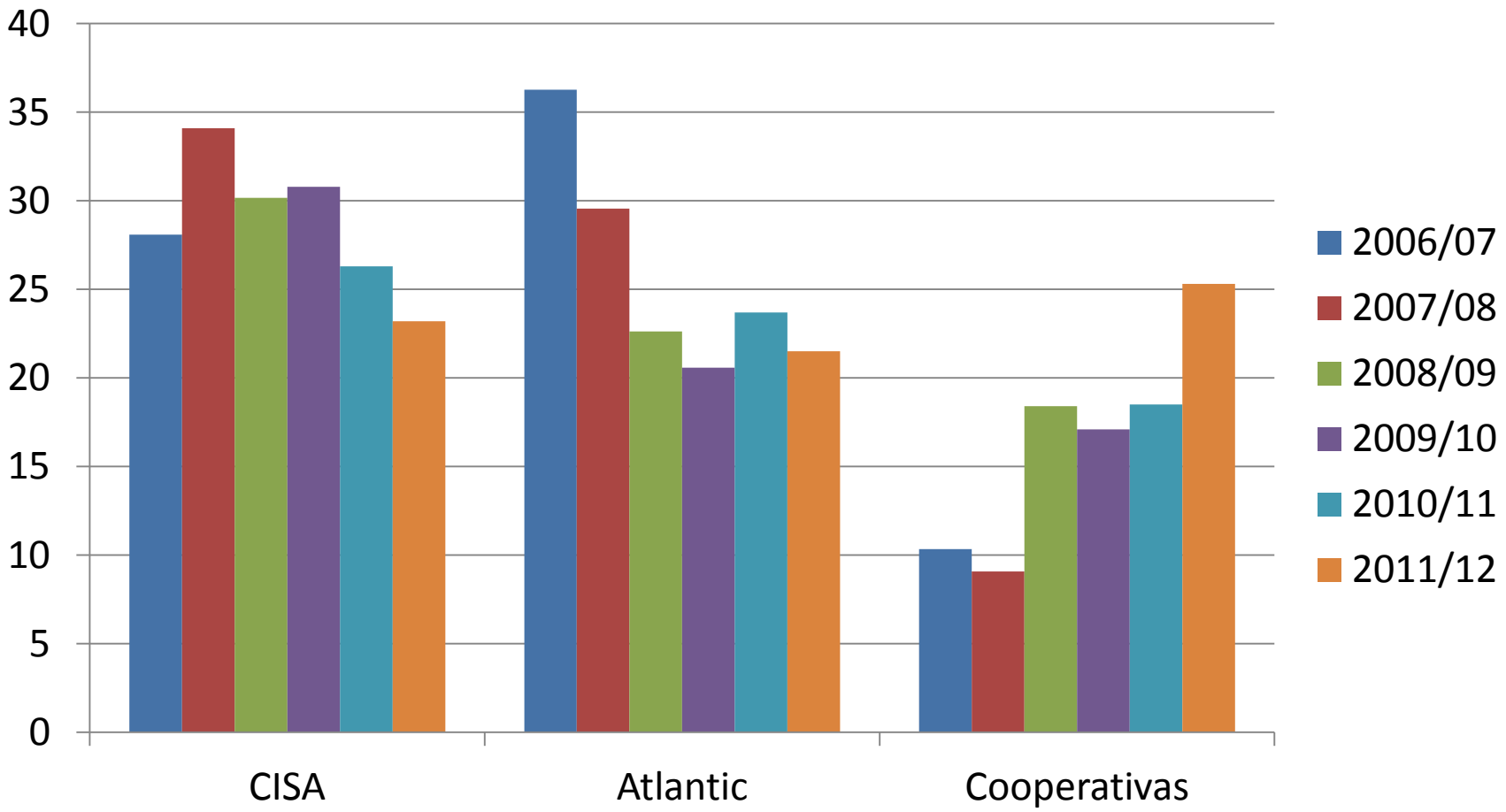
Dates of incorporation of certifications in the coops



Incorporation of other certifications in the coops



Share of coffee exports from Nicaragua (%)



COSA method for economic, social and environmental evaluations

certification	No. farms	Altitude	Coffee Area ha	Education*
Organic	47	996 b	2.90 a	2.9 a
Utz	38	747 a	2.95 a	3.0 a
Fairtrade	43	992 b	3.16 a	3.2 a
Conventional	76	1031 bc	3.22 a	3.2 a
Rainforest	33	998 b	4.20 b	4.2 b
CAFE Practice	44	1139 c	4.23 b	4.2 b

*3=Primary completed, 4= Secondary, 5= Technical College

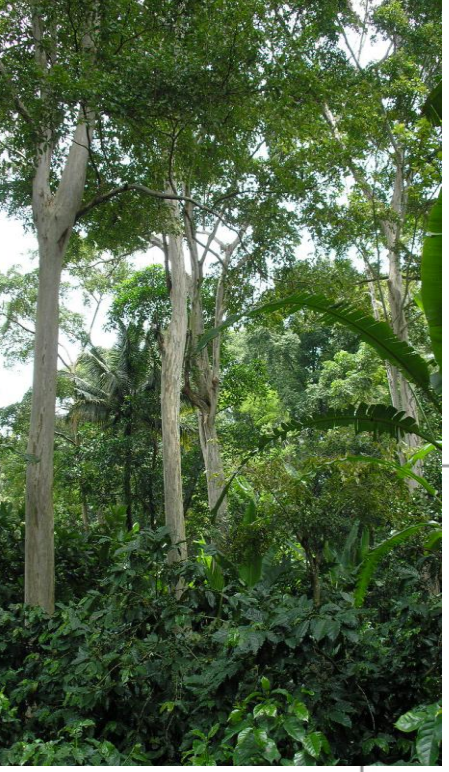
Farms Surveyed

	Number of farms	Ha of coffee	Productivity kg/ha
<25ha of coffee			
Conventional	33	5.6	840
Fairtrade	18	4.0	1023
Organic	18	4.0	499
C.A.F.E. Practices	9	12.8	1335
Utz Certified	19	5.3	661
>25 of coffee			
Conventional	9	40.1	872
Rainforest Alliance	11	82.6	1430
C.A.F.E. Practices	13	100.6	1518

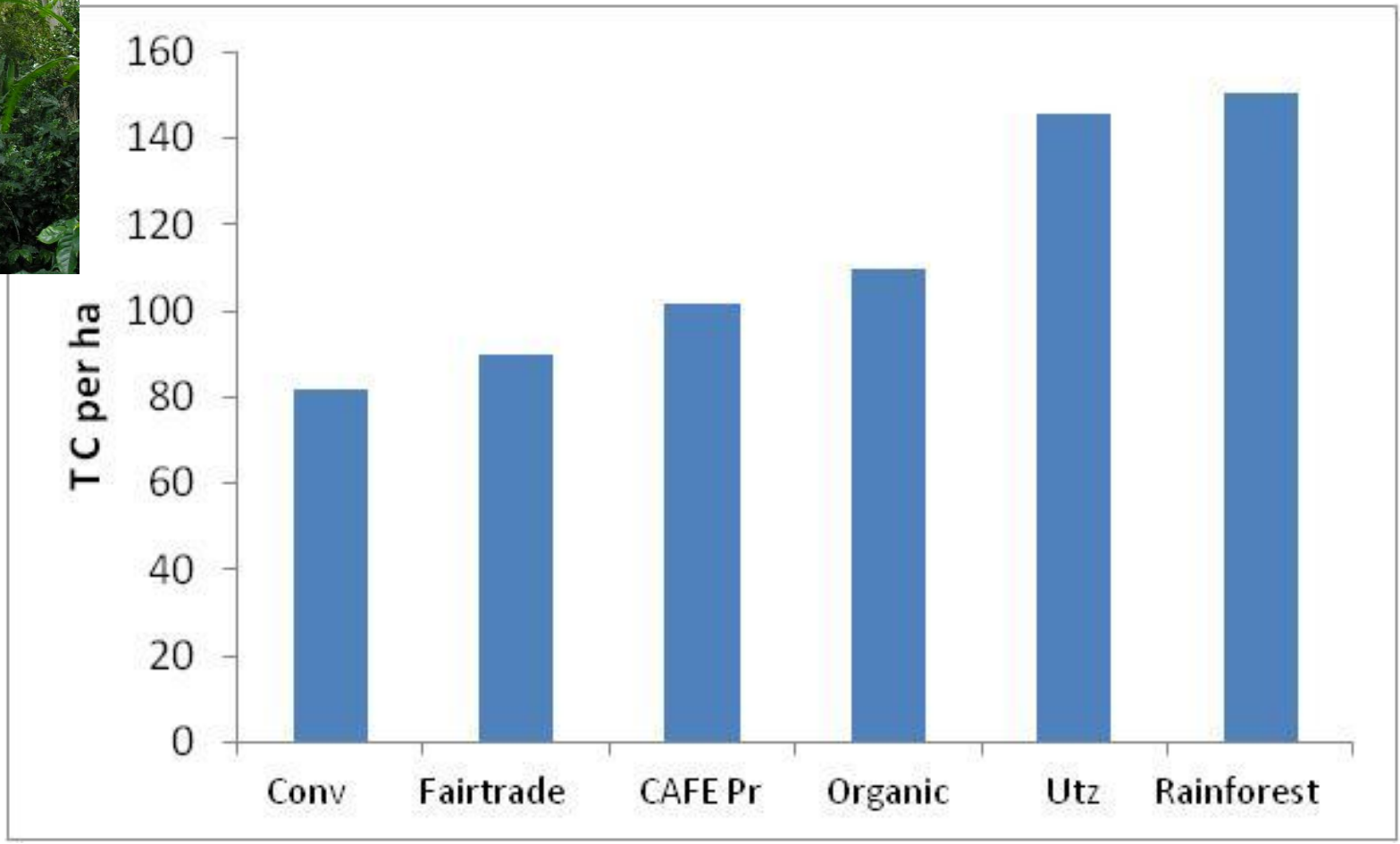
Rainforest Alliance and C.A.F.E Practice farmer also better educated

Economic response

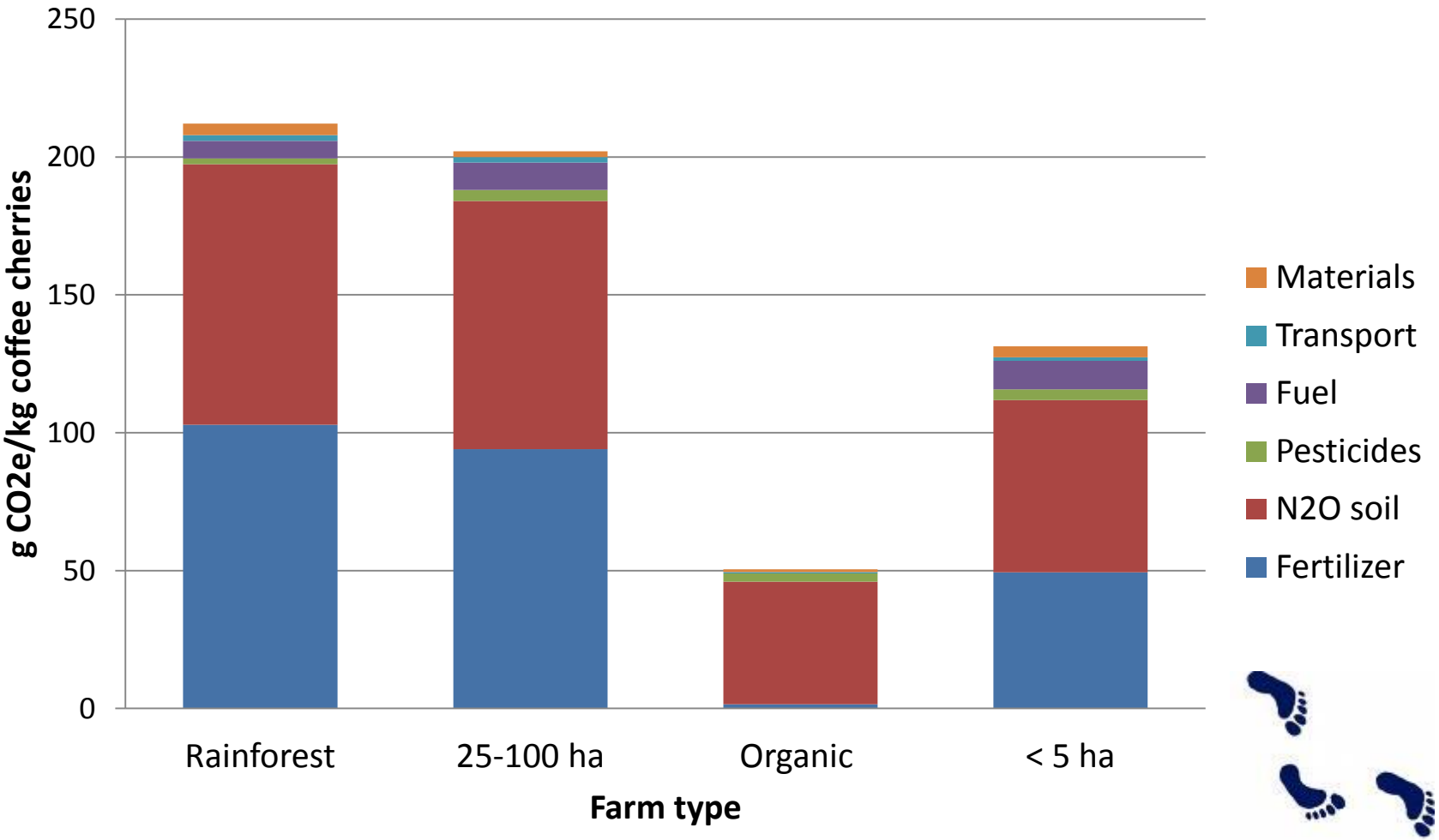
	Productivity Kg/ha		Production Costs $/ha		Net income US$/ha		Price $/kg	
<25ha of coffee								
Conventional	840	AB	1084	ABC	836	AB	0.45	A
Fairtrade	1023	AB	1336	BC	1351	AB	0.54	A
Organic	499	A	529	A	1216	AB	0.74	B
C.A.F.E. Practices	1335	B	1734	C	1795	B	0.53	A
Utz Certified	661	A	676	AB	748	A	0.44	A
>25 of coffee								
Conventional	872	A	1193	A	829	A	0.47	A
Rainforest Alliance	1430	A	1784	A	2472	A	0.61	B
C.A.F.E. Practices	1518	A	1839	A	2541	A	0.58	B



Above ground carbon stocks



Carbon footprint of coffee production

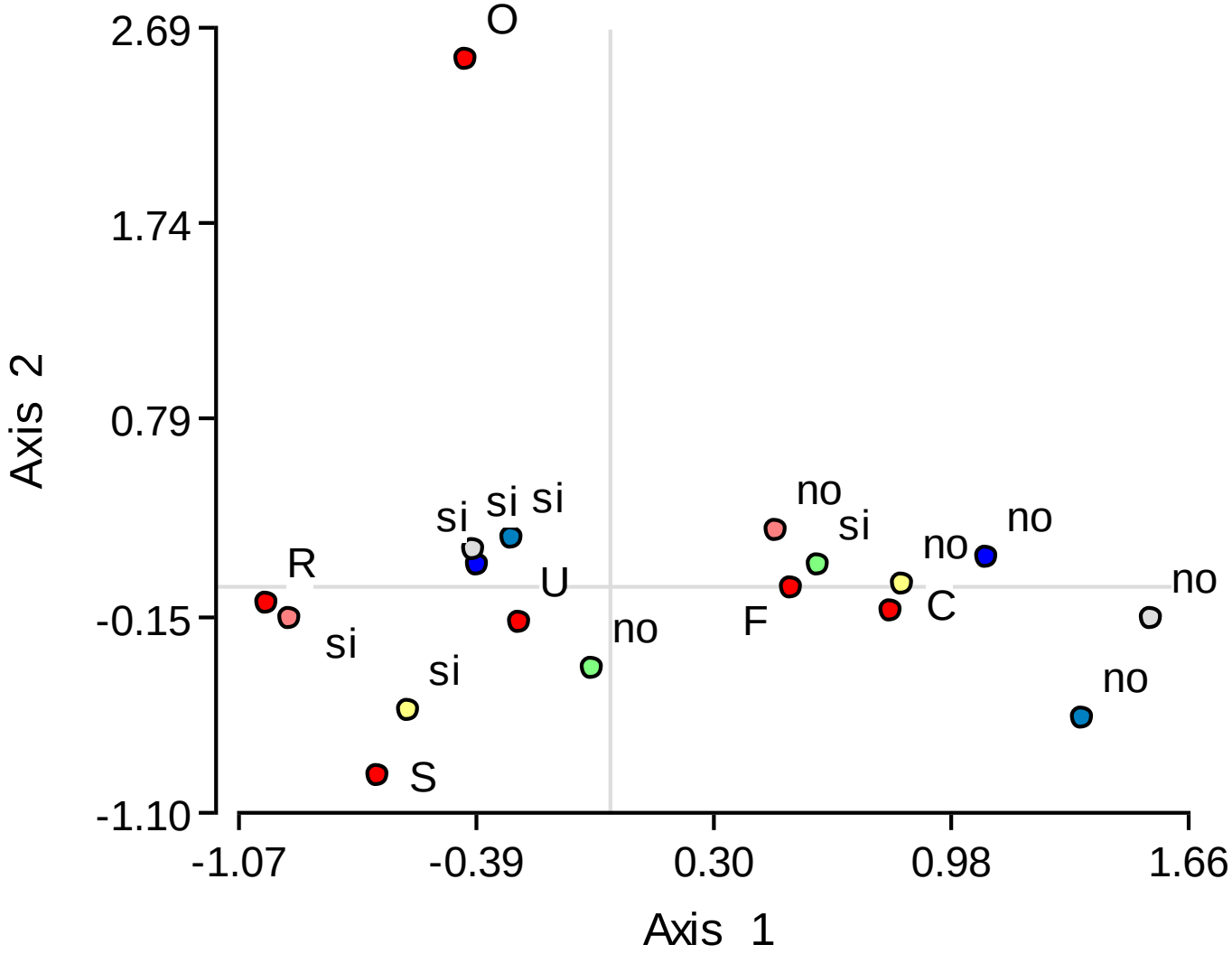


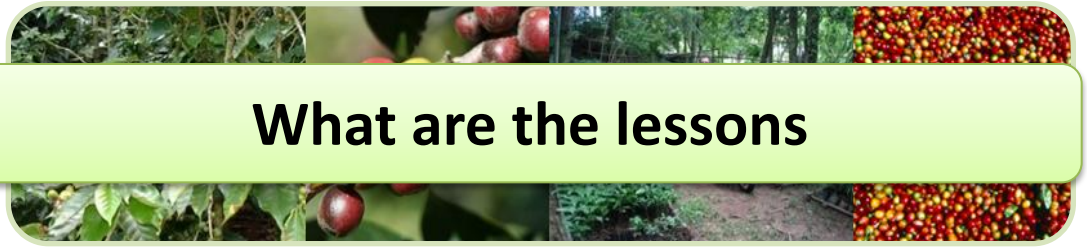
Shade characteristics for Biodiversity

Shade tree diversity index (Margaleff index)

certification	Means		
Cafe Practices	2.30	A	
Conventional	2.79	A	B
Rainforest	2.94	A	B
Utz	4.57	A	B
Fairtrade	4.58	A	B
Organic	5.25		B

Management of water contamination





What are the lessons

- Each certification appears to respond to a different type of farmer
- In general certified farms perform better economically and environmentally than conventional farms , and receive a better price than conventional farms
- Economic performance is more closely related to the economic capacity of the farmers certified – e.g. CAFE Practice better educated, larger, higher altitude farms. Utz less educated, smaller lower altitude farms.
- In environmental terms certifications differ in the aspects they score well or poorly in – none do well in all environmental aspects
- Although certification does seem to effectively differentiate farms with better practices than conventional, performance is uneven, and probably too soon to think there are true “impacts” from certification